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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/555,557	08/04/2000	DIAMANTIS GIKAS	67190/973904	9214

21171 7590 06/15/2005

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WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER
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DETWILER, BRIAN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/555,557

Applicant(s)

GIKAS ET AL.

Examiner

Brian J. Detwiler

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5,7 and 9-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5,7 and 9-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5, 7, 9, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,664,978 B1 (Kekic et al) and U.S. Patent No. 5,879,162 (Bergman).

Referring to claims 5, 12, and 13, Kekic discloses in Figure 6B a display window that is divided both vertically and horizontally. Kekic further discloses in Figure 6B a first partial window displaying a hierarchical structure of at least one interface parameter of a software application. The at least one interface parameter can be selected using a movable cursor, and a detailed display is subsequently displayed in a second partial window. The interface parameter has a bi-unique designation and the software is applicable to an industrial automation system. Kekic discloses in Figure 6B that the detail display includes at least one editable attribute of the selected interface parameter wherein the editable attribute can be defined and parameterized. The editable attribute, furthermore, comprises a name portion ("Attribute Name") and a data portion ("Event Name", "Polling", "Value", "Description"). The name portion and the data portion are arranged in horizontal rows one below another. A scrollbar indicates that the data portion can be scrolled horizontally. Kekic, however, fails to disclose that the name portion remains stationary when the data portion is scrolled horizontally. Bergman, however, discloses

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in column 11: lines 58-67 and column 12: lines 1-2 a user interface comprising a name portion (“Class ID” and “Name” columns) and a data portion (“Teacher”, “Room”, “Grade”, and “Monday” columns) contained within the same partial display window. Both the name portion and the data portion are displayed within the same partial display window, but only the data portion is scrolled to the left when scroll bar [84] is used to reveal other columns not visible at the right of the display. This feature is important because it advantageously keeps the name portion visible at all times, which allows the user to easily associate the name portion with a corresponding data portion no matter how great the number of columns. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Bergman with those of Kekic such that Kekic’s name portion remains stationary when the data portion is scrolled horizontally. It would have been beneficial to do this because it would have allowed the user to easily associate the name portion with a corresponding data portion regardless of the number of columns.

Referring to claim 7, Kekic discloses in Figure 6B that said name and data portions are arranged side by side in vertical columns.

Referring to claim 9, Kekic discloses in Figure 6B that the data portion is divided into rows and columns.

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,664,978 B1 (Kekic et al) and U.S. Patent No. 5,879,162 (Bergman) as applied to claims 5 and 7 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,604,854 (Glassey).

Referring to claims 10 and 11, Kekic and Bergman fail to disclose that the user can freely select the sequence of columns or rows. This feature is quite well known in the art and is typically used in spreadsheet or tabular applications. Specifically, Glassey discloses in column 8: lines 48-56 means for reorganizing data in a spreadsheet by simply clicking and dragging columns or rows to rearrange the data. Glassey suggests that this is particularly advantageous because it allows users to view the data from multiple perspectives. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to allow users to freely arrange columns or rows as taught by Glassey in combination with the teachings of Cotugno and Bergman discussed above. It would have been beneficial to do this because it would allow users to view the industrial automation data form multiple perspectives as suggested by Glassey.

### ***Response to Arguments***

The rejection over Cotugno is withdrawn in view of Applicant's claim to foreign priority. A new non-final action is included herewith. Applicant's arguments with respect to the applied teachings of Cotugno are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection. With respect to the teachings of Bergman, Applicant asserts that the combination with the prior art is erroneous because there is no evidence of the problem to be solved by the claimed invention. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Bergman specifically teaches an interface wherein the name portion remains stationary while the data portion is scrolled horizontally so that the more important name portion remains visible all the time. Bergman thus provides the teaching and the

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motivation for improving prior art systems. Whether or not Bergman's motivation coalesces with Applicant's reasons for inventing the instant invention is irrelevant.

With respect to rejections over Glassey, Applicant asserts that "rearranging columns or rows" is different from "freely selecting and storing a sequence of columns or rows". The examiner respectfully disagrees. In the context of the claimed invention, if a user can rearrange the columns and rows via one or more drag and drop operations as taught by Glassey, the user is undoubtedly freely selecting a sequence of columns or rows. This sequence, furthermore, is stored by the system so that it can be displayed to the user.

Claims 5, 7, and 9-13 stand rejected for at least these reasons.

### ***Conclusion***

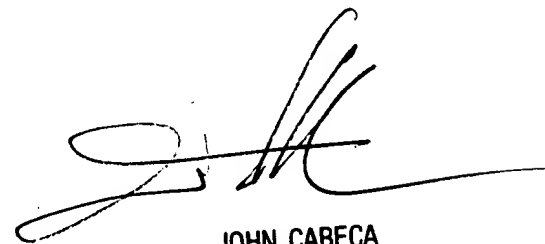
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian J. Detwiler whose telephone number is 571-272-4049. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 8-5:30 and alternating Fridays 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Cabeca can be reached on 571-272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

bjd

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Cabeca', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JOHN CABECA  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 210